REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 3, 4, 7, 8 and 10 remain pending in the application. Claims 1, 3 and 8 have been amended to clarify the claimed invention and resubmitted for reconsideration. Claims 2, 5, 6, 9 and 11-20 have been cancelled.

Claims 1-6 and 11-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being anticipated by <u>Van Maanen Jr.</u> (U.S. 4,855,580) in view of <u>McMillin</u> (U.S. 5,103,490). The rejection is respectfully traversed for the reason that neither of the applied patents nor the combination is disclosed, taught or suggested in the claimed invention.

The claimed invention is directed to a method for integrating digital data, which data is processed by OCR if needed. The recognized text (by OCR) and processed image are therefore integrated into one file. Once the OCR is done, the digitalized image and recognized text are collated into a file for recordation purpose (see page 6, paragraph [0020], lines 19-24 and Figure 2). In this way, the memory storage space can be dramatically saved when documents are digitalized. Furthermore, the recognized text, which is processed by OCR program, is capable of conducting a "SEARCH" function.

Moreover, when the image pickup apparatus is equipped with a sheet-fed mechanism, the integration of image data and text data is able to process automatically the whole document which contains several pages. The pages can be recorded and integrated in a digital format one page by one page if block 21 (legend 21) detects more un-scanned pages existed (see page 5, paragraph [0019] and also in Figures 1-3).

<u>Van Maanen Jr.</u> is directed to a data merging document processing method which utilizes two data capturing devices such as an image camera 12 and a OCR/MICR (Magnetic Ink Character Recognition) reader 14 (see column lines 46-47). The first data capture device acquires the first data (see column 1, lines 47-49). The second data capture device acquires the second data (see column lines 58-59). After the first data and the second data are captured, calculation for inter-document time stamps are generated (see column 1, lines 54-57 and lines 65-68). The first and the second data will be merged if the time variance signal is within a predetermined range (see column 2, lines 8-10).

<u>McMillin</u> is directed to a method for storing and merging multiple optically scanned

4

images into a common output format (see column 2, lines 43-44). The multiple optically scanned images of McMillin are mainly directed to a VIS-mode scanned image and NIR-Mode scanned image. The VIS-mode is a visual image scanning system and the NIR-mode is pigment marked sensing system (see column 1, lines 36-40 and lines 46-48). McMillin teaches the method to merging NIR-mode and VIS-Mode scanning results to a common file. However, McMillin does not teach or suggest the utilized OCR function as the claimed invention.

Particularly, the claimed invention employs "ONE" scanning pickup apparatus with a sheet-fed mechanism to conduct "digitalization as a text file" to documents which contain multiple pages with texts and/or photos on each page.

Neither Van Maanen Jr, McMillin nor the combination of them have taught the claimed invention. The skilled person can not explore the utilized OCR function by studying Van Maanen Jr and McMillin, since there is no suggestion in them. Furthermore, neither Van Maanen Jr, McMillin nor the combination of them provide the disclosures of converting the output file to a "TEXT" file.

In view of the above, Applicants traverse that Van Maanen Jr and McMillin teach, or disclose the claimed invention, or make the claimed invention obvious. Therefore, independent claim 1 is allowable over Van Maanen Jr and McMillin and the obviousness rejection should be withdrawn.

Due to the dependency on patentable independent claim 1, claims 3 and 4 are patentable.

Claims 7-10 and 15-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being anticipated by Van Maanen Jr. in view of McMillin, and further in view of Schmid et al. (U.S. 5,659,164.

Since claims 9 and 15-20 are cancelled by this Amendment, the rejection made to claims 9, and 15-20 is moot. Further due to claims 7, 8 and 10 being dependent from patentable claim 4, which is dependent from independent claim 1, claims 7, 8 and 10 should be allowable for the reasons stated above. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejections of the pending claims is respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner believe anything further is desirable in order to place this application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

All objections and rejections having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the present application should be in condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is earnestly

solicited.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 07-1337 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

LOWE HAUPTMAN GILMAN & BERNER, LLP

Kenneth M. Berner

Kenneth M. Berner
Registration No. 37,093

Customer Number: 22429
1700 Diagonal Road, Suite 300
Alexandria, Virginia 22314
(703) 684-1111
(703) 518-5499 Facsimile
Date: November 9, 2004
KMB/jd